WARIES, By the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singuler Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes and their Officials: Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all Spirituall persons: And also to all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffs, Constables, Churchwardens, and Headboroughs: And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subiects whatsoever they be, aswell within libertie, as without, to whome these presents shall come, greeting.

WHEREAS by the humble Supplication and Petition of our true and Loyall Subiects the Inhabitants of our Towne of Staines within our County of Middlesex, We are given to vnderstand aswell of the great ruynes & decayes of the Bridge of Staines, as also of the wasting & decayes of the Causway of Egham which leadeth to the said Bridge from the Westerne parts to our Citty of London; Whereupon We forthwith directed our Commission vnder our great Seale of England to our right trusty & welbeloued Thomas Lord Knyvet, Sir John Doddridge Knight one of the Justices of our Bench, Sir John Denham Knight one of the Barons of our Exchequer, Sir Henry Spiller Knight, William Mynterne, & Adryan Moore Esquires, to authorise them to survey the necessary ruynes and decayes of the said Bridge & Causway, and to make Certificate vnto Vs of the present necessity of the reparation of the same, of the charge therof, and how the same may be raised; the which accordingly they have performed: and they do find aswell by their owne view, as also vpon the examination of the Wardens of the said Bridge & diuers skilfull workmen in these affaires, that the said Bridge is so dangerously ruynated in the Foundation therof, and generally in all the parts, & the Causway so worne & eaten away by great flouds, as of necessity there must be speedy reparation; the charge wherof, will amount neere vpon the Sum of One Thousand Pounds. And moreover there have bin many breaches which have bin made by reason of the said great floods, which have drowned vp the Country thereabouts, and vndone many of the Inhabitants. And forasmuch as many inconueniences & great hindrances will daily arise in stopping of recourse of trading & other occasions for the service & provision of our Citty of London, (the said Causway & Bridge being the direct & only passage for diuers Counties in the Westerne parts to our foresaid Citty, and from the said Citty into those Countries againe, it being also the only way for our owne Carriages to passe ouer, as often as our occasions call vs that way, Our selfe being lately an eye witnes of the ruines and decayes aforesaid, & of the present necessity of repayring the same, We have thought good (vpon due consideration had therof, aswell for preuenting of many mischefes & vntimely accidents that may happen hereafter, as also for the maintaining & preserving of the passage there, it being of that consequence & importance as concerneth the generall good of the Common wealth, to take some course in time for the raising of the foresaid Sum of Money, that these decayes may speedily be repaired & amended. And albeit our poore Subiects the Inhabitants of Staines are most ready & willing to the vttermost of their power, to contribute towards the finishing & performing of this good & necessary work, yet finding the charge therof far beyond their power (they receiving purely by the tolle of the passengers there, but Twenty Foure Pounds at the most, & having in stocke but Eightéene Pounds, the which is already employed in Timber towards the beginning of this worke) they have most humbly besought Vs for the better furtherance therof, to commend this good & laudable deed vnto the charitable consideration of all our loving & well disposed subiects within certaine Counties of this Kingdome, and especially such as may ordually have recourse of trading that way, not doubting but that all good Christians & true Subiects (well considering the premisses) will be ready & forward (and the rather for our good commendation herof) to extend their liberal contributions towards the speedy finishing and performing of this needfull & necessary worke. And forasmuch also, as it plainely appeareth to all those to whom these presents shall come, that this worke tendeth not to the priuate good of any particular person, but generally to the ease & benefit of the Common wealth, and that the necessity of the performance therof requireth a speciall course aboue other ordinary Collections, and a care extraordinary to be had for the speedy collecting & bringing in of present supplies of moneys on this behalfe, We have thought good to commend the furtherance of this good worke vnto the serious consideration & benevolence of all our loving subiects within our Cities of London & Westminster, with the suburbs & liberties therof, & in our Counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, Southampton, Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, without Cities of Chichester & Winchester, & our Isle of Wight, & Town of Southampton, & in our Cities of Salisbury, Bristoll, Bath, & Wells, & Exeter, with our Town & County of Poole: And in all Townes corporate, priuiledged places, Parishes, Villages, & in all other places whatsoeuer within our foresaid Counties, for and towards the raising of the Sum of money aforesaid, to finish the said worke.

NOW know ye therfore, that Our pleasure is, & We do by these our Letters Patents authorise & require euery Churchwarden & Petty Constable of euery Parish within any the Counties, Cities, Townes corporate, or priuiledged places before recited, that forthwith vpon receipt of these our Letters Patents or the Briefe therof they collect & gather of euery person within their Parish from house to house, their contributions towards this good worke, and to endorse the names of the giuers, and the Sum giuen, on the back side of the Briefe, and to returne the Briefe & moneys therupon collected, vnto such Justices of the Peace in euery County, Citty or Towne corporate, as our Justices of Assize in their next Circuit shall nominate & appoint. And Our further pleasure is, that those Justices of the Peace shall returne the money to them deliuered by the Churchwardens or Petty Constables, vnto the Bridge-Masters of Staines Bridge, before the end of Easter Tearme next ensuing the date of these our Letters Patents, that this necessary worke may speedily be finished & performed. Any Statute, Lawe, Ordinance, or prouision heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

IN witnesse whereof, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witnes our selfe at Westminster, the Eighteenth day of February, in the Thirteenth yeare of our Raigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the Two & Fiftieth.

Feward

God saue the King.

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